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October 15, 2001

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Mr. James V. Derrick, Jr.
Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Enron Corp.
1400 Smith Street
Houston, Texas 77002

Re: Preliminary Investigation of Allegations of an Anonymous Employee

Dear Jim:

You requested that Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. ("V&E") conduct an investigation into certain allegations initially made on an anonymous basis by an employee of Enron Corp. ("Enron"). Those allegations question the propriety of Enron's accounting treatment and public disclosures for certain deconsolidated entities known as Condor or Whitewing and certain transactions with a related party, LJM, and particularly transactions with LJM known as Raptor vehicles. The anonymous employee later identified herself as Sherron Watkins, who met with Kenneth L. Lay, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Enron, for approximately one hour to express her concerns and provided him with materials to supplement her initial anonymous letter. This letter constitutes our report with respect to our investigation and sets forth the scope of our review, the activities undertaken, the identification of primary concerns, and our analysis and conclusions with respect to those concerns.

1. Scope of Undertaking

In general, the scope of V&E's undertaking was to review the allegations raised by Ms. Watkins' anonymous letter and supplemental materials and to conduct an investigation to determine whether the facts she has raised warrant further independent legal or accounting review.

By way of background, some of the supplemental materials provided by Ms. Watkins proposed a series of steps for addressing the problems she perceived, which included retention of independent legal counsel to conduct a wide-spread investigation, and the engagement of independent auditors, apparently for the purpose of analyzing transactions in detail and opining as to the propriety of the accounting treatment employed by Enron and its auditors Arthur Andersen

L.L.P. ("AA"). In preliminary discussions with you, it was decided that our initial approach would not involve the second guessing of the accounting advice and treatment provided by AA, that there would be no detailed analysis of each and every transaction and that there would be no full scale discovery style inquiry. Instead, the inquiry would be confined to a determination whether the anonymous letter and supplemental materials raised new factual information that would warrant a broader investigation.

2. **Activities Undertaken**

Our preliminary investigation included the review of selected documents provided to us by Enron and from our internal sources, interviews with key Enron and AA personnel and discussions with V&E attorneys who are familiar with legal issues addressed by Enron in connection with the subject transactions. The focus, of course, was to identify background information, disclosures and personal views with respect to the Condor/Whitewing and Raptor vehicles and Enron's relationship with LJM.

Documents reviewed in this process included excerpts of meetings of Enron's Board of Directors, including minutes of meetings of the Audit and Finance Committees of the Board, various public filings of Enron (annual reports, 10-K's, 10-Q's), documents relating to Enron's transactions with LJM, including Deal Approval Sheets and Investment Summaries, and various miscellaneous materials in the nature of presentations and memoranda. The focus of our document review was to determine whether the requisite approval of the transactions referenced in the anonymous letter had been obtained from Enron's Board and its committees, the nature of the disclosures made with respect to the transactions and relationships questioned by the anonymous letter and supplemental materials and to provide general background information.

Interviews were also conducted with various Enron personnel based either on their connection with the transactions involving Condor/Whitewing, LJM and Raptor, or because they were identified in materials provided by Ms. Watkins as persons who might share her concerns. Those persons interviewed were: Andrew S. Fastow, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Richard B. Causey, Executive Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer; Richard B. Buy, Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Officer; Greg Whalley, President and Chief Operating Officer (formerly Chairman of Enron Wholesale); Jeffrey McMahon, President and Chief Executive Officer, Enron Industrial Markets (formerly Treasurer of Enron); Jordan H. Mintz, Vice President and General Counsel of Enron Global Finance; Mark E. Koenig, Executive Vice President, Investor Relations; Paula H. Rieker, Managing Director, Investor Relations; and Sherron Watkins, the author of the anonymous letter and supplemental materials.

Interviews were also conducted with David B. Duncan and Debra A. Cash, both partners with AA assigned to the Enron audit engagement.

In addition to the foregoing formal interviews, discussions were likewise held with Rex Rogers, Vice President and Assistant General Counsel of Enron, and Ronald L. Astin of V&E regarding general background information and the identification of specific issues relating to the matters raised by the anonymous letter and supplemental materials.

After completing interviews with all of the foregoing individuals, supplemental interviews were conducted with Andrew S. Fastow and Richard B. Causey of Enron and David B. Duncan and Debra A. Cash of AA to confirm certain information learned in the overall interview process.

As we initially discussed, we limited our interviews (with the exception of the AA partners mentioned above) to individuals still employed with Enron. Therefore, we did not interview individuals no longer with Enron mentioned in the anonymous letter or supplemental materials or any third party related to LJM.

3. Identification of Primary Concerns

Our preliminary investigation revealed four primary areas of concern expressed by Ms. Watkins' anonymous letter and supplemental materials. Accordingly, our document review and interview process focused on those areas of concern and whether the facts raised by Ms. Watkins' anonymous letter and supplemental materials presented any new information as to those matters that may warrant further independent investigation. Those areas of primary concern are as follows:

a. the apparent conflict of interests by Mr. Fastow's ownership in LJM;

b. the accounting treatment accorded the Condor and Raptor structures in Enron's financial statements;

c. the adequacy of public disclosures of the Condor and Raptor transactions; and

d. the potential impact on Enron's financial statements as a result of the Condor/Whitewing and Raptor vehicles because of the decline in value of the merchant investments placed in those vehicles as well as the decline in the market price of Enron common stock.

Our findings and conclusions with respect to each of these areas of concern are set forth separately below.

4. Conflict of Interest

Mr. Fastow actually organized two separate investment partnerships. The first, LJM-Cayman L.P. ("LJM1"), was launched in June, 1999. The LJM concept appears to have been fully discussed

with the Office of the Chairman and was presented to and approved by Enron's Board of Directors at a special meeting on June 28, 1999. That approval included the Board's waiver of Enron's code of ethics to permit Mr. Fastow to act as the general partner of LJM1. The primary purpose for the organization of LJM1 was to establish a non-Enron entity with which Enron could enter into a swap transaction to hedge its investment in Rhythms NetCommunications. It was likewise recognized that LJM might negotiate to purchase additional assets in Enron's merchant portfolio. LJM raised $16 million in outside equity, invested in a Raptor vehicle that entered into a swap for Rhythms NetCommunications and also purchased a sufficient portion of Enron's equity in the Cuiaba power plant in Brazil to allow Enron to deconsolidate that project.

The second investment partnership – LJM2 Co-Investment, L.P. ("LJM2") – was organized in October, 1999.[1] At an October 11, 1999 meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors, Enron's activities with LJM1 were reviewed and the proposal for transacting business with LJM2 was discussed and approved. The Board of Directors, at its meeting on October 12, 1999, waived Enron's code of ethics to permit Mr. Fastow to serve as general partner of LJM2 and established guidelines for Enron's transaction of business with LJM2. Those included: (i) no obligation to do transactions between Enron and LJM2; (ii) the Chief Accounting and Risk Officers would review, and where appropriate, approve transactions with LJM2; (iii) there would be an annual review by the Board's Audit Committee of completed transactions or recommendations, as appropriate; and (iv) there would be an annual review as to the application of the Company's code of ethics to assure that such transactions would not adversely affect the best interests of the Company.

The LJM2 partnership raised $349 million in equity from investors ranging from commercial and investment banks, insurance companies, public and private pension funds and high net worth individuals. LJM2 has engaged in approximately 21 separate transactions with Enron.

Pursuant to the Board's guidelines, special procedures were adopted and utilized for the transaction of business with LJM. Those procedures included the preparation of a special LJM2 Deal Approval Sheet ("DASH") that would be prepared for every Enron/LJM2 transaction generally describing the nature of the commercial transaction and the relevant economics. Approval was also required by a variety of senior level commercial, technical and commercial support professionals. DASH was supplemented by an LJM approval process checklist testing for compliance with Board directives for transactions with LJM2, including questions addressing the following:

- alternative sales options and counter-parties.

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[1] The initial LJM partnership was then referred to as "LJM1." LJM1 and LJM2 will be referred to jointly as "LJM" unless there is a particular reason to distinguish between the two investment partnerships.

- determination that the transaction was conducted at arm's length.
- disclosure obligations, and
- review of the transaction by Enron's Office of the Chairman, Chief Accounting Officer and Chief Risk Officer.

As part of these procedures, it also appeared that several additional controls were adhered to. These included LJM senior management professionals never negotiating on behalf of Enron; Enron professionals negotiating with LJM reporting to senior Enron professionals other than Mr. Fastow; Enron Global Finance commercial, legal and accounting monitoring of compliance with procedures and controls for regular updates for Chief Accounting and Risk Officers, and internal and outside counsel regularly consulted regarding disclosure obligations and review of any such disclosures.

Based on our review of the LJM Deal Approval Sheets and accompanying checklist, it appears that the approval procedures were generally adhered to. Transactions were uniformly approved by legal, technical and commercial professionals as well as the Chief Accounting and Risk Officers. In most instances, there was no approval signature for the Office of the Chairman except for several significant transactions. It also appeared that the LJM transactions were reviewed by the Audit Committee on an annual basis. At the February 7, 2000 meeting of the Audit Committee, all LJM transactions occurring prior to that date were reviewed. A review of all the LJM transactions during the following year was made at the February 12, 2001 meetings of both the Audit and Finance Committees.

Based on our interviews with various Enron representatives, and notwithstanding the foregoing guidelines and procedures that were adopted, concerns were expressed about the awkwardness in LJM's operating within Enron and two potential conflicts of interest. The awkwardness arose from the fact that LJM's professionals – primarily individuals reporting to Mr. Fastow and Michael Koppers – were also Enron employees who officed in Enron space and worked among Enron employees. Transactions were negotiated between Enron employees acting from Enron and other Enron employees acting for LJM. Within Enron, there appeared to be an air of secrecy regarding the LJM partnerships and suspicion that those Enron employees acting for LJM were receiving special or additional compensation. Although there was a Services Agreement between Enron and LJM pursuant to which LJM compensated Enron for the services of Enron personnel and use of Enron's facilities, this fact did not quell the awkwardness of the Enron employees "wearing two hats." Much of this awkwardness should be eliminated on a going-forward basis, however, by reason of Mr. Fastow's sale of his ownership interest in LJM effective July 31, 2001 to Mr. Koppers (who resigned from Enron prior to the transaction) and the complete separation of LJM's employees and facilities from Enron.

The first area of potential conflict of interest voiced by several individuals was the risk that undue pressure may be placed on Enron professionals who were negotiating with LJM because those individuals would ultimately have their performance evaluated for compensation purposes by Mr. Fastow in his capacity as Chief Financial Officer. In particular, Jeffrey McMahon stated that while he was Treasurer of Enron he discussed this conflict directly with Mr. Fastow and Jeffrey Skilling, and that the conflict was not resolved prior to his acceptance of a new position within Enron. Mr. McMahon stated, however, that he was aware of no transaction where Enron suffered economic harm as a result of this potential conflict.

The second potential conflict of interest identified by several individuals was that investors in LJM may have perceived that their investment was required to establish or maintain other business relationships with Enron. Although no investors in LJM were interviewed, both Mr. Fastow and Mr. McMahon stated unequivocally that they told potential investors that there was no tie-in between LJM investment and Enron business. Moreover, Mr. Fastow stated that Merrill Lynch was paid a fee for marketing LJM2 partnership interests and that a number of investors, such as private and public pension funds and high net worth individuals, had no business relationship with Enron.

In summary, none of the individuals interviewed could identify any transaction between Enron and LJM that was not reasonable from Enron's standpoint or that was contrary to Enron's best interests. Conversely, the individuals interviewed were virtually uniform in stating that LJM provided a convenient alternative equity partner with flexibility that permitted Enron to close transactions that otherwise could not have been accomplished. Moreover, both the awkwardness and potential for conflict of interest should be eliminated on a going-forward basis as a result of Mr. Fastow's divestment of his ownership interest in the LJM partnerships.

5. **Accounting Issues**

As stated at the outset, the decision was made early in our preliminary investigation not to engage an independent accounting firm to second guess the accounting advice and audit treatment provided by AA. Based on interviews with representatives of AA and Mr. Causey, all material facts of the Condor/Whitewing and Raptor vehicles, as well as other transactions involving LJM, appeared to have been disclosed to and reviewed by AA. In this regard, AA reviewed the LJM solicitation materials and partnership agreement to assure that certain safeguards were provided that would permit LJM to be a source of third party equity in transactions conducted with Enron. AA likewise reviewed specific transactions between Enron and LJM to assure that LJM had sufficient equity in the transaction to justify the accounting and audit principles being applied.

The relationship between Enron and AA was an open one and, according to Mr. Causey, Enron consults AA early and often on accounting and audit issues as they arise. AA concurs with this statement, but points out that in certain of its accounting and audit treatment, it must rely on

Enron's statement of the business purpose for specific transactions and Enron's valuation of assets placed in the Condor/Whitewing and Raptor structures.

Enron and AA representatives both acknowledge that the accounting treatment on the Condor/Whitewing and Raptor transactions is creative and aggressive, but no one has reason to believe that it is inappropriate from a technical standpoint. In this regard, AA consulted with its senior technical experts in its Chicago office regarding the technical accounting treatment on the Condor/Whitewing and Raptor transactions, and the AA partners on the Enron account consulted with AA's senior practice committee in Houston on other aspects of the transactions. Enron may also take comfort from AA's audit opinion and report to the Audit Committee which implicitly approves the transactions involving Condor/Whitewing and Raptor structures in the context of the approval of Enron's financial statements.

Following our initial interview with AA representatives, you agreed with us that it was desirable and appropriate to provide them with Ms. Watkins' anonymous letter and supplemental materials so that AA could comment directly on specific allegations contained in those materials. AA identified two allegations in particular that, if accurate, would affect their accounting and audit treatment. Those allegations were, in effect: (i) There was a handshake deal between Mr. Skilling and Mr. Fastow that LJM would never lose money on any transaction with Enron; and (ii) LJM received a cash fee in the Raptor transactions that completely recouped its investment and profit.

Mr. Fastow adamantly denies any agreement with Mr. Skilling or anyone else that LJM would never lose money in transactions with Enron, and he recognized that such an agreement would defeat the accounting treatment that was the very objective for the formation of LJM. Mr. Causey is unaware of any such agreement and has seen no evidence of it.

Both Mr. Fastow and Mr. Causey acknowledge that LJM was to receive a cash fee for its management of the Raptor vehicles in an amount not to exceed $250,000.00 annually for each company, for a total of $1,000,000.00 for the four entities. AA was aware of Enron's payment of these fees as well as other organizational costs of the Raptor entities, but these fees fall far short of recouping LJM's investment in the Raptor entities. Both Mr. Fastow and Mr. Causey were quick to point out, however, that in each Raptor vehicle the first transaction was a "put" of Enron shares which was settled favorably to LJM prior to maturity, and as a result thereof, distributions were made to LJM in amounts equal to or greater than its initial investment in those Raptor vehicles. AA is aware of these transactions and is comfortable that, by reason of the applicable special purpose entity accounting rules, the transactions do not undermine LJM's equity investment in the Raptor vehicles.

When questioned about her basis for these two allegations in her anonymous letter and supplemental materials, Ms. Watkins acknowledged that she had no personal, first hand knowledge of either allegation. Both were based solely on rumors that she heard during the two months she was working in Enron Global Finance, and she was uncertain about any details of the alleged cash fee

allegation. Notwithstanding the lack of any solid basis for the allegations, we think it is likely that AA will seek some kind of assurance from Enron and perhaps from Messrs. Fastow and Causey that no such agreement or cash fee payment occurred.

6. **Adequacy of Disclosures**

Notwithstanding the expression of concern in Ms. Watkins' anonymous letter and supporting materials regarding the adequacy of Enron's disclosures as to the Condor/Whitewing and Raptor vehicles (which, to a large extent, reflect her opinion), AA is comfortable with the disclosure in the footnotes to the financials describing the Condor/Whitewing and Raptor structures and other relationships and transactions with LJM. AA points out that the transactions involving Condor/Whitewing are disclosed in aggregate terms in the unconsolidated equity affiliates footnote and that the transactions with LJM, including the Raptor transactions, are disclosed in aggregate terms in the related party transactions footnote to the financials.

The concern with adequacy of disclosures is that one can always argue in hindsight that disclosures contained in proxy solicitations, management's discussion and analysis and financial footnotes could be more detailed. In this regard, it is our understanding that Enron's practice is to provide its financial statements and disclosure materials to V&E with a relatively short time frame within which to respond with comments.

7. **Potential Bad Cosmetics**

Concern was frequently expressed that the transactions involving Condor/Whitewing and Raptor could be portrayed very poorly if subjected to a Wall Street Journal exposé or class action lawsuit. Factors pointed to in support of these concerns included (i) the use of Enron stock to provide equity necessary to do transactions with Condor/Whitewing and Raptor; (ii) recognizing earnings through derivative transactions with Raptor when it could be argued that there was no true "third party" involved in those transactions; (iii) because both merchant investment value and Enron stock have fallen, the Raptor entities may not be able to satisfy their obligations to Enron, thus raising the question "Who ultimately bears this loss?"; (iv) the apparent conflict of interest issue raises questions as to the valuation of assets sold to or that were the subject of transactions with Raptor and the timing of those transactions, (generally at a point when the valuation was at a historical high point).

8. **Conclusions**

Based on the findings and conclusions set forth with respect to each of the four areas of primary concern discussed above, the facts disclosed through our preliminary investigation do not, in our judgment, warrant a further widespread investigation by independent counsel and auditors.

Our preliminary investigation, however, leaves us with concern that, because of the bad cosmetics involving the LJM entities and Raptor transactions, coupled with the poor performance of the merchant investment assets placed in those vehicles and the decline in the value of Enron stock, there is a serious risk of adverse publicity and litigation. It also appears that because of the inquiries and issues raised by Ms. Watkins, AA will want additional assurances that Enron had no agreement with LJM that LJM would not lose money on transactions with Enron and that Enron paid no fees to LJM in excess of those previously disclosed to AA. Finally, we believe that some response should be provided to Ms. Watkins to assure her that her concerns were thoroughly reviewed, analyzed, and although found not to raise new or undisclosed information, were given serious consideration.

We have previously reported verbally to Mr. Lay and you regarding our investigation and conclusions and, at your request, have reported the same information to Robert K. Jaedicke, in his capacity of Chairman of the Audit Committee of Enron's Board of Directors. At Dr. Jaedicke's request, we gave a verbal summary of our review and conclusions to the full Audit Committee. Should you desire to discuss any aspect of this written report or any other details regarding our review of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

VINSON & ELKINS L.L.P.

By: Max Hendrick III
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cc: Joseph C. Dilg